



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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December 29, 2006

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE STATUS REPORT

In accordance with your Board's direction on April 4, 2006, this report provides a status update on the implementation of the 11 key recommendations under the Los Angeles County Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI). The Chief Administrative Office (CAO), Service Integration Branch continues to facilitate implementation work groups for specific key recommendations with participation from other CAO branches and the Community Development Commission (CDC), the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Public Health (DPH), Mental Health (DMH), Public Social Services (DPSS), Probation, and the Sheriff. Representatives from these County agencies and departments are the County HPI Team.

Chief Administrative Office staff also continues to meet with councils of government (COGs), city managers, and other city officials, as well as other government agencies and community-based service providers regarding the implementation of HPI recommendations.

The following is a status update on the implementation of the 11 key HPI recommendations. Attachment I and II summarize the status of the HPI funds approved by your Board on April 4 and appropriated on June 26, 2006.

Homeless and Housing Program Fund (HHPF)

- Your Board approved allocating \$80 million in one-time County General Funds to the HHPF on June 26, 2006. At that time, your Board also approved allocation of \$5.94 million of the \$80 million HHPF for five specific programs:
 - Skid Row Families Contract with Beyond Shelter - \$2 million
 - Transform Cold/Wet Weather Shelter Beds to Year-Round - \$1 million
 - City of Santa Monica Homeless/Community Court - \$540,000
 - Access to Housing for Health with DHS - \$1.5 million
 - Weingart Center Operations - \$900,000
- On September 12, 2006, you Board delegated authority to the CAO to prepare and execute agreements and/or Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) as necessary to fully implement the first four programs and partially implement the fifth program.
- On September 26, 2006, your Board approved the recommended spending plan for the remainder \$74.06 million of the HHPF. The approval included dividing the HHPF into two major categories: City/Community Programs consisting of \$32 million and County Programs consisting of \$48 million which includes the five programs approved by your Board on June 26, 2006.
- The September 26, 2006 action also included direction to the CAO and the County team to design a "recommended" RFP process for the competitive distribution of the \$32 million "City/Community Programs." The RFP process is due to your Board for approval in late January 2007.
- The CAO delegated lead for the design of the RFP process to CDC. CDC is using the Special Needs Housing Alliance as the County Work Group to assist in the design of the RFP process.
- On December 5, 2006, your Board approved actions recommended by DHS to implement the Access to Housing for Health program to place homeless patients being released from County Hospitals into permanent housing and provide them with necessary support services.

- On December 12, 2006, your Board approved the Request for Appropriation Adjustments (\$19.3 million) in the operating budgets of the County departments that will administer the programs under County Programs, "Discharge Policies, Rental Subsidies, Moving Assistance, and Eviction Protection (\$17.3 million), and Board Approved Programs, "Skid Row Families" program (\$2 million).
- On December 18, 2006, the contract with Beyond Shelter to implement the Skid Row Families Program to permanently house 500 families outside of Skid Row and provide them with case management services was fully executed. Beyond Shelter, a nonprofit community agency, will be working collaboratively with the County's Skid Row Assessment Team composed of staff from DCFS, DPSS, DMH, and DPH.
- The CAO is working closely with the City of Santa Monica, the Superior Court, and the Public Defender regarding implementation of the City of Santa Monica Homeless/Community Court. Contracts to transfer funds to the City and Superior Court are in preparation and the City of Santa Monica and Superior Court expect to launch the Homeless/Community Court in January 2007.
- The CAO is working with CDC to develop and execute agreements and MOUs for the transfer of funds through budget adjustments for the \$20.8 million "Capital Development" component of the HHPF County Programs category.
- The \$3.9 million under HHPF Administration component will remain in the CAO budget as these activities will be administered by the CAO. One of the key parts of the Administration elements will be an SSI and other benefits advocacy program.
- A summary of the expenditure status of the \$80 million HHPF is included as Attachment I.

Stabilization Centers

- CAO, and the County Team, have meet with various cities, councils of government, and housing/homeless advocates to determine opportunities and constraints to siting the five stabilization centers.
- Board staff and CAO staff traveled to New York in early October to observe and gather information on New York's homeless/housing programs. The trip included discussion of discharge policies with officials of the VERA Institute of Justice, and

the New York City Departments of Homeless Services and Corrections. Staff also visited the New York Correctional facility at Rikers Island to view first hand their discharge planning process. This information provided excellent background for working with the Sheriff and other agencies in planning for stabilization centers.

- Based upon a motion by Supervisor Knabe on September 26, 2006, CAO staff recently met with the Gateway Cities COG to discuss the COG's significant interest in creating a stabilization center project for the Gateway Cities area; discussion with the COG and Supervisor Knabe's staff will be ongoing.
- CAO staff will meet with the City Manager of West Covina on January 22, 2007, in response to that City's concern about the stabilization center concept.
- CAO staff will continue work with your Board's offices, public, and nonprofit agencies on an ongoing basis to develop stabilization center concepts that align with specific sub-regions or communities needs. It may be that respondents to the \$32 million HHPF City/Community RFP will factor in the ongoing stabilization center funds into their proposals.

Skid Row Homeless Family Access Center (HFAC)

- CAO is conducting implementation planning meetings with the County departments that will be housed at the HFAC and Beyond Shelter, your Board approved contractor to serve Skid Row families.
- Participating departments are: DCFS, DHS, DPSS, DMH, and DPH.
- Discussions have centered around location (near but outside Skid Row), space needs, logistics, hours of operation, and services to be provided by the County departments, including the outreach teams that engage homeless families in Skid Row, and Beyond Shelter.

Homeless Court Program

- CAO has convened a work group consisting of representation from the Superior Court, County Public Defender, and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to discuss implementation of the Homeless Court Program, including specifics related to the hiring and placement of the Homeless Court Program staffing (i.e., court services assistants, homeless court coordinators and resource coordinators). The work group has been meeting twice a month.

- The work group has developed job descriptions and agreed that the allocated funds will be used to hire one (1) FTE Court Services Assistant, and two (2) part-time Court Services Assistant for the Superior Court.
- One (1) Court Resource coordinator and one (1) Homeless Court Coordinator will be retained through an RFP process which will result in a contract with a nonprofit legal service provider.
- The "ceremonial" piece of the court will take place throughout the County on a rotating basis, which will be driven by need.
- It is intended to have the Homeless Court functioning in early 2007.

Prototype Court

- The HPI's only involvement with DMH's Prototype Court is annual monetary allocation of \$200,000 to support the Court.
- Funding is now available based upon Board approval of the 2006-07 County budget on June 26, 2006.

Housing Locators/Housing Specialist

- Your Board authorized DPSS to enter into contracts for housing locators on September 2006 to provide Housing Locator services for CalWORKs homeless families. The contracts are with the Weingart Center Association for housing locator services for Service Planning Area (SPA) 4 and with Del Richardson & Associates, Inc. for all other SPAs.
- DMH has received approval from the Department of Human Resources to hire 23 Housing Specialist using Mental Health Services Act funding to assist persons with severe mental illnesses in applying for federal rental subsidies through the public housing authorities, securing appropriate housing, and developing and maintaining relationships with landlords and property management companies. Fourteen of the 23 positions will supplement two existing positions to provide two Housing Specialists for adults with mentally illnesses in each SPA. The remaining 9 of the 23 positions will provide one Housing Specialist for each SPA, along with one supervisor, to oversee the program for transitional age youth.
- DMH is working with DPSS to coordinate housing services for adults with families to prevent duplication of effort.

- DMH has been developing and implementing plans for the Housing Specialist Training Institute – a five-day intensive training program for recently hired Housing Specialists.
- DMH is working with the SPA District Chiefs to include Countywide Housing Policy and Development staff in their interview and selection process.

Housing Database

- On December 19, 2006, your Board authorized the CAO to enter into a sole source contract with SocialServe.com to develop and maintain the Housing Database. The contract will be jointly monitored by the CAO and CDC.
- Target date for implementation for the first phase of the Database is spring 2007.

General Relief (GR) Housing Subsidy and Case Management Program

- DPSS implemented the General Relief (GR) Housing Subsidy and Case Management Program on July 25, 2006.
- The Program is targeted to: (1) assist 900 GR homeless individuals with up to \$300/month rental subsidy payable to the landlord, and (2) coordinate access to other necessary supportive services necessary for the individual to maintain housing, increase employment and/or receipt of SSI benefits.

DPSS-Sheriff's Homeless Release Project

- Staffs of the Sheriff and DPSS have worked collaborative to implement In-Jail Homeless Release Project Pilot.
- For the Century Regional Detention Center, the project includes one DPSS staff unit of seven Eligibility Workers (EWs), an Eligibility Supervisor and clerical support staff who began taking applications from inmates effective August 15, 2006.
- A second DPSS staff unit with the same staffing configuration has been established at the Men's Central Jail effective August 22, 2006.
- DPSS staff provides outreach to inmates prior to release from the detention facilities. Outreach includes taking applications for General Relief, CalWORKs, Food Stamps, and Medi-Cal, and assisting with SSI applications in an effort to prevent release into homelessness.

DPSS-DHS Homeless Release Project

- DPSS in partnership with DHS implemented the DPSS-DHS Homeless Release Project Pilot on July 25, 2006.
- A DPSS staff unit of five Eligibility Workers (EWs), one Eligibility Supervisor, and clerical support staff is housed at LAC+USC Medical Center to take applications for General Relief, CalWORKs and Food Stamps.
- Two of the EWs split their time at Olive View Medical Center, Harbor UCLA Medical Center, and Martin Luther King Jr./Harbor Medical Center to take applications.

Homeless and Service Enriched Housing Initiatives Coordinator

- The CAO has an open competitive recruitment for a Homeless and Housing Coordinator. Applications are currently being screened.

The next status report will be provided to your Board at the end of March 2007. In addition, we will continue to brief your Board's Homeless Deputies on a regular basis. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Lari Sheehan at (213) 893-2477 or at lsheehan@cao.lacounty.gov.

DEJ:LS
KH:MDC:os

Attachments (2)

c: Sheriff Leroy D. Baca
Cynthia D. Banks, Director of Community and Senior Services
Dr. Bruce A. Chernof, Director and Chief Medical Officer of Health Services
John A. Clarke, Executive Officer/Clerk of Superior Court
Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director and Health Officer of Public Health
Carlos Jackson, Executive Director of the Community Development Commission
Michael P. Judge, Public Defender
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director of Children and Family Services
Marv Southard, Director of Mental Health
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Bryce Yokomizo, Director of Public Social Services

ATTACHMENT I

COUNTY HOMELESS AND HOUSING PROGRAM FUND - ONE-TIME FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION	TOTAL COST	Total Funds transferred to County Department or Program Provider	Remaining Balance to be transferred to County Department or Program Provider
CITY/COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:			
Capital Development: Housing Units; Safe Havens; Operating Subsidies	\$11,600,000	\$0	\$11,600,000
Locally Defined Programs to Reduce and/or Prevent Homelessness (other than Capital)	\$20,400,000	\$0	\$20,400,000
COUNTY PROGRAMS:			
Revolving Loan Fund	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$20,000,000
Community Outreach and Collaboration Strategies	\$800,000	\$0	\$800,000
DISCHARGE PROGRAMS/RENTAL SUBSIDIES/MOVING ASSISTANCE/EVICTION PROTECTION:			
Moving Assistance for Non-Welfare-to-work CalWORKs Homeless Families and Non-Emergency/Transitional Shelter or Similar Temporary Group Housing	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$0
Rental Subsidy for CalWORKs & Non-CalWORKs Homeless Families in Emergency/Transitional Shelter or Similar Temporary group Living	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000	\$0
Eviction Prevention for CalWORKs Non-Welfare-to-Work Homeless Families	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
Housing Assistance for Skid Row Families	\$3,700,000	\$3,700,000	\$0
Moving Assistance for Single Adults in Emergency/Transitional Shelter or Similar Temporary Group Housing	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$0
Discharge of Hospital Patients (Recuperative Care)	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$0
Moving Assistance/Rental Subsidies for Transitional Age Youth Exiting Dependency and Probation Systems	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$0
Jail "In-Reach" Case Management	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0

COUNTY HOMELESS AND HOUSING PROGRAM FUND - ONE-TIME FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION	TOTAL COST	Total Funds transferred to County Department or Program Provider	Remaining Balance to be transferred to County Department or Program Provider
ADMINISTRATION:	\$3,960,000	\$0	\$3,960,000
Evaluation - "Performance Counts!"	"to de determined"	\$0	\$0
SSI and Other Benefits Advocacy Program	"to de determined"	\$0	\$0
Program Administration	"to de determined"	\$0	\$0
OTHER BOARD APPROVED PROGRAMS:			
Skid Row Families	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0
Transform Cold/Wet Weather Beds to Year-Round Shelter	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
Santa Monica Homeless/Community Court	\$540,000	\$0	\$540,000
Access to Housing for Health	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0
Weingart Center Operations	\$900,000	\$450,000	\$450,000
ONGOING FUNDING TOTAL	\$80,000,000	\$22,250,000	\$57,750,000

ATTACHMENT II

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE - ONGOING FUNDING

RECOMMENDATION	TOTAL COST	OTHER FUNDING SOURCE	COUNTY GENERAL FUND	Total Funds transferred to County Department or Program Provider
ONGOING FUNDING				
Create five 24-hour, multi-disciplinary/interdepartmental Stabilization Centers	7,125,000		7,125,000	0
Create a multi-disciplinary/interdepartmental Homeless Family Access Center (HFAC) at Skid Row	1,400,000		1,400,000	0
Create a Homeless Court	379,000		379,000	0
Create a Prototype Court	200,000		200,000	200,000
Housing Locators/Housing Specialist (DMH)	400,000		400,000	0
	923,000	923,000		923,000
(CalWORKs)	3,000,000	3,000,000		3,000,000
Create a Housing Data Base	382,000	180,000	202,000	382,000
DPSS General Relief (GR) Housing Subsidy and Case Management Pilot	4,052,000		4,052,000	4,052,000
DPSS Applications at County Jails	1,097,000		1,097,000	1,097,000
DPSS Applications at County Medical Centers Pilot	588,000		588,000	588,000
Hire a Homeless/Housing Coordinator	148,000		148,000	0
ONGOING FUNDING TOTAL	19,694,000	4,103,000	15,591,000	10,242,000